UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/249
4 April 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE

Letter dated 31 March 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the Assembly of an additional item of an urgent character entitled "Emergency assistance to Mozambique".

Please find attached, in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the texts of an explanatory memorandum concerning tropical cyclone "Nadia", which has recently stricken vast areas of northern and central Mozambique, as well as elements for a draft resolution.

(Signed) Pedro Comissario AFONSO
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to the
United Nations

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. As will be recalled, on 24 March 1994, the Mozambican northern central provinces of Nampula, Zambezia, Manica and Sofala were severely stricken by tropical cyclone "Nadia".

2. To date, 240 people have been confirmed dead, while thousands of others have sustained serious injuries.

3. We have not been able to determine the exact amount of the losses or of the damage to the national economy. However, on the basis of existing preliminary information, given the ferocity of this natural calamity and the fragility of the affected areas, it can be said with certainty that the situation is already very serious. As a matter of fact, the areas stricken by this cyclone were still struggling to recover from the consequences of previous natural calamities, including the recent drought, which was the worst of its kind in living memory of the history of the southern African region, coupled with the negative consequences of war.

4. There is widespread destruction of property, especially in Nampula province. Preliminary estimates indicate that, for instance, 13 out of 21 districts in that province, including Nacala, Ilha, Angoche, Moma, Mogovola, Mossuril, Monjicual, Meconta, Nampula City, Monapo and Namialo, have suffered serious damage. In these areas, it is estimated that 2 million people have been affected, of whom 1.5 million have been left without shelter.

5. About 80 per cent of agricultural production, including an estimated 80 per cent of cashew nut plantations, have been lost or severely damaged.

6. In the urban centres, nearly all buildings, including private, commercial and public installations, have also been either destroyed or severely damaged.

7. The water supply and sewage system has suffered serious damage. In the city of Nacala, close to 95 per cent of the energy supply system has been completely destroyed. Moreover, about 130 kilometres of electrical power lines from the Cabora Bassa dam, in Tete province, to Nampula-Nacala, have been completely devastated, thus leaving millions of citizens in the affected areas in serious jeopardy.

8. The recently upgraded infrastructure of the Nacala port, which serves the Nacala corridor, has been either destroyed or severely damaged. In addition, 3 vessels have been sunk and 17 others have sustained serious damage.

9. The cyclone has equally affected very seriously virtually all the schools and hospitals in these areas. Given the current state of the national economy, without outside assistance some of these facilities might not be restored in the foreseeable future, thus leaving thousands of children without schools.

10. Since 25 March 1994, the Government has been undertaking all possible efforts in order to address the tragedy and to assist the victims of this

natural calamity. The Government of Mozambique appreciates most sincerely the prompt assistance and support received from several governmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Assistance Coordination at Maputo. Their valuable assistance has been instrumental in minimizing the magnitude of this tragedy.

11. As outlined above, it is not yet possible to determine the exact amount of losses of human life and destruction of property. However, in view of the intensity of the cyclone and the high levels of destruction of property and loss of human life already recorded, it is obvious that Mozambique is facing a national catastrophe of unforeseen consequences which cannot be effectively addressed through the ongoing national efforts alone.

12. For the above reasons and in the spirit of humanity and international solidarity, the Government of Mozambique calls upon the international community to provide emergency assistance in order to prevent further tragedy with respect to both human lives and property, as well as to enable the country to continue its development programmes.

APPENDIX

Draft resolution: emergency assistance to Mozambique

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned about the loss of human life and extensive damage and devastation caused by tropical cyclone "Nadia", which has recently stricken vast areas of central and northern Mozambique,

Noting with grave concern that the stricken areas were yet to recover fully from the consequences of war and previous natural disasters,

Noting the negative impact of the cyclone on the national economy and on the ongoing collective efforts to bring about a lasting peace and tranquillity to Mozambique,

Recognizing the efforts undertaken by the Government of Mozambique in order to assist the people in need,

Determined to assist the people of Mozambique in their efforts for the full implementation of the provisions of the general peace agreement for Mozambique of 4 October 1992, particularly in the period prior to the holding of the general elections,

1. Declares its solidarity with the people and Government of Mozambique in this time of trial;

2. Notes with satisfaction the national efforts already under way in order to provide the necessary assistance to the victims of the cyclone;

3. Commends the international community, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, through the United Nations Office for Humanitarian Assistance Coordination at Maputo, for their prompt response to assist the victims of this natural disaster;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, the competent bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, in close collaboration with the Government of Mozambique, to mobilize relief assistance to the victims of this natural disaster;

5. Requests the international community to provide urgently additional support to Mozambique in order to mitigate the economic, financial and social consequences endured by the people and the Government of Mozambique in their efforts to recover from the cyclone and to enable the country to continue its development goals;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to review the consequences of tropic cyclone "Nadia" on the national economy and to include his observations and recommendations in the report called for in paragraph 10 (c) of General Assembly resolution 47/42 of 9 December 1992, entitled "Assistance to Mozambique".